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Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks Media Advisory

For Immediate Release: June 24, 2011

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National Park Service Hosts Press Conference in Fresno, CA, on June 29 -"What's New at Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks"

Wednesday, June 29, from 10:30 a.m.-11 a.m., plus interviews from 11-12 noon When:

Where: Fresno/Clovis Convention & Visitor Bureau, 1550 E. Shaw Ave, Suite 101, Fresno, CA 93710

(corner of Shaw and 9th Street, located adjacent to Red Lobster/Carrow's restaurants)

Directions: From Hwy 41, take Shaw Ave. exit. Turn onto East Shaw Ave. Turn left on 9th Street, and take an immediate left into parking lot behind building. Or, look for parking spot near the "1550" number on front of the building. If no spot is available, turn right after passing the front of building into parking lot by restaurant. Follow signs/ranger directions to CVB.

What/How:

The format includes a ½ hour of speakers introducing the news media to various possible stories at the press conference. Afterwards, National Park Service staff and a woman rescued recently in Sequoia National Park, as well as several of her rescuers, will be on-site for 1 hour of interviews. Stories include:

- How to Enjoy the Parks Safely During the July 4 Holiday
- River/Hiking Safety and an award for the park's volunteer program
- Recognition for several men who rescued a woman who fell through a snow bridge and was trapped in a creek under several feet of snow in Sequoia National Park
- Donation of an ambulance to the parks by the Sequoia Parks Foundation
- Wilderness Stewardship Plan/Environmental Impact Statement with new public service announcement - We are seeking public comments on how wilderness should be managed at the parks. Comments are due by July 25.
- Sierra Nevada Bighorn Sheep Environmental Assessment: Research and Recovery Actions -We are seeking comments from the public on a variety of alternatives by July 21.

-NPS-

ABOUT SEQUOIA AND KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, which lie side-by-side in the southern Sierra Nevada Mountains in central California, serve as a prime example of nature's size, beauty, and diversity. With the world's largest trees (by volume), grand mountains, rugged foothills, deep canyons, vast caverns, and the highest point in the lower 48 states, it is a place that attracts 1.6 million visitors a year from across the U.S. and the world. Visitor activities vary by season and elevation. For more information, visit www.nps.gov/seki or call 559-565-3341.